

from January 22, 2001, to March 22, 2001.

A check in the amount of \$390.00 for payment of the extension fee is enclosed. Please charge any additional fee required for the extension, and credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 06-1205.

A Request For Continued Examination is filed concurrently herewith.

Preliminary to continued examination, please further amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 24 and 27 as follows (a version of these claims, marked to show the changes, is appended):

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24. (Amended) An image processing device comprising:
a scanner for inputting an image signal;
a control unit including a control circuit adapted for controlling said device and performing image processing necessary for copying on the image signal input from said scanner to provide a first processed image signal;
a bidirectional interface for transmitting the image signal input by said scanner under control of said

control unit to an external computer, which performs image processing necessary for copying on the transmitted image signal to provide a second processed image signal, and for receiving the second processed image signal from the external computer; and

an output circuit adapted for outputting the first processed image signal and the second processed image signal to a printer,

wherein said device has a plurality of modes including a first copying mode, in which the image signal inputted from said scanner is outputted to said printer using the external computer, and a second copying mode, in which the image signal inputted from said scanner is outputted to said printer without using the external computer, the image signal from said scanner being transmitted in order of: said control unit, said bidirectional interface, the external computer, said bidirectional interface, said control unit, and said output circuit, in the first copying mode so as to perform copying based on the second processed image signal, and

the image signal from said scanner being transmitted in order of: said control unit and said output

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circuit, in the second mode so as to perform copying based on the first processed image signal.

27. (Amended) An image processing method for an image processing device, said method comprising the steps of:

inputting an image signal by a scanner;
performing image processing necessary for copying on the input image signal by using a control unit for controlling the image processing device to provide a first processed image signal;

transmitting the image signal input by the scanner under control of the control unit to an external computer via a bidirectional interface to be processed, by image processing necessary for copying, into a second processed image signal;

receiving the second processed image signal from the external computer via the bidirectional interface;

outputting the first or the second processed image signal to a printer via an output circuit;

performing copying based on the second processed image signal in a first copying mode, in which the image signal inputted from the scanner is outputted to the printer using the external computer by transmitting the image signal

from the scanner in order of: the control unit, the bidirectional interface, the external computer, the bidirectional interface, the control unit, and the output circuit; and

performing copying based on the first processed image signal in a second copying mode, in which the image signal inputted from the scanner is outputted to the printer using the external computer by transmitting the image signal from the scanner in order of: the control unit and the output circuit.

Please add Claims 60 and 61 as follows:

60. (New) The device according to claim 24, wherein image processing which can not be performed in the second copying mode is performed in the first copying mode.

61. (New) The method according to claim 27, wherein image processing which can not be performed in the second copying mode is performed in the first copying mode.